



Open Invitation for Travel Bloggers to participate in a FAM Trip in Almopia: the Crossroad of History and Nature

The Municipality of Almopia is pleased to invite you to a special "*Familiarization trip*" to Almopia, which will take place from Monday 14th to Thursday 17th of March, 2016. Municipality of Almopia is a part of the Regional Unit of Pella in Central Macedonia, Greece, with an area of about 986 square kilometers and 27.556 inhabitants. Aridea is the only town of the Municipality and it is accompanied with 39 villages.

Almopia consists of a valley surrounded by mountains that are protected by Natura 2000 legislation and is famous for the production of fruits and vegetables of high quality, such as cherries, peaches, beans and red peppers. Besides the agricultural production, Almopia is famous for the thermal baths of Loutra, which is a touristic attraction of major importance.

This trip will be an exciting yet challenging experience, and the participants will be able to discover the unique cultural and natural heritage of the area, through specific thematic routes combining the history, traditions and nature. These routes are called "Roads of Living History (LHI)", "Roads of Living Nature (LNA)" and Crossroads of Living history and Living nature (LHI-LNA). Nevertheless, participants will also taste the local gastronomy promoted through the local traditional products, restaurants and wineries, while through their interaction with local people will be able to experience the originality and the hospitality of Almopia.

Hereafter you can find an indicative schedule of the FAM trip and relative important information.

Schedule

Monday 14 March 2016

Arrival in Almopia - Accommodation in Loutraki village.
Welcome Dinner with the participation of local authorities.

Tuesday 15 March 2016

Trekking to Kounoupista Waterfall (LNA3)
Visiting the Museum of Natural History (LHI2)

Wednesday 16 March 2016

Trekking to the Valley of Rocks (LNA5)
Visiting the Church of St. Dimitrios in Aetochori and the Archaggelos Michael Monastery (LHI3)

Thursday 17 March 2016

Visiting the Castle of Chresi and the Church of St. Dimitrios in Xifiani (LHI1).
Lunch

Who can participate - Registration for FAM trip

The FAM Trip is addressed to travel bloggers with at least one year of activity in the field emphasizing especially in the presentation of alternative and thematic destinations. Having their own travel blog as well as at least three active accounts in the social media is also a prerequisite. The bloggers should be citizens from Greece or the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Travel bloggers can express their interest by sending the registration form via e-mail to tsimas@gmail.com.

Registration deadline is on Monday 29 February 2016.

Travel - Arrival - Departure Schedule

All the participants are invited to arrive in Almopia on Monday 14th March 2016 preferably between 14:00 and 17:00. Detailed car directions will be sent to you as soon as you will confirm your participation.

Alternatively, you may travel with airplane to Thessaloniki and we will take care for your transport to Almopia with mini-bus or private car. In this case, your arrival to Thessaloniki will be arranged by us between 12.00 and 15.00 in order to be able to reach Almopia before 17.00. For the participants from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the transportation from Bitola will be also arranged.

Departures will take place on Thursday 17th March 2016 indicatively between 14.00 and 17.00 as well.

The expenses related to your transportation will be fully covered/ reimbursed.

Accommodation

We offer accommodation in single hotel rooms including breakfast and two meals per day in local restaurants.

Additional information

The FAM Trip includes a lot of sight-seeing as well as some trekking activities, while you will also have the chance to enjoy the famous thermal baths of Loutra. Therefore, you are invited to have with you sports outfit and shoes, as well as a swimming suit.

Touring will be guided, while mini-bus will be provided for the local transport of all the participants.

The project «Living history – Living nature II» with the acronym “Lhi-Lna II” is implemented under the Cross-Border European Territorial Cooperation Programme “Greece – The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2007-2013” and it is developed specifically within the Priority Axis 2. *Enhancement of the environmental resources and cultural heritage of the programme area, Measure 2.2. Promote and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area.* The project is implemented by the Municipality of Almopia in cooperation with the Municipality of Novaci.